

Remarks

Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,119,125 of *Gloudeman et al.* ("Gloudeman").

Claim 2 has been cancelled. New claims 13-18 have been added.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by *Gloudeman* because *Gloudeman* does not disclose a latch object that provides a common interface in a software system for accessing a control point of a hardware system as claimed in amended claim 1. Instead, *Gloudeman* discloses a latch object that stores the state of a binary event. (*Gloudeman*, col. 13, lines 54-56). Applicant submits that the binary event stored in the latch object of *Gloudeman* has nothing to do with a control point of a hardware system as does the latch object of amended claim 1.

Applicant further submits that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by *Gloudeman* because *Gloudeman* does not disclose a latch object that provides a locking mechanism around a physical address associated with a control point of a hardware system as claimed in amended claim 1. Instead, *Gloudeman* discloses a latch object that stores the state of a binary event that has nothing to do with a control point of a hardware system.

It is therefore submitted that the software system of amended claim 1 having a latch object that provides a common interface in a software system for accessing a control point of a hardware system and that provides a locking mechanism for a physical address associated with the control point is not anticipated by *Gloudeman*.

Given that claims 3-12 depend from amended claim 1, it is submitted that claims 3-12 are not anticipated by

*Gloudeman.*

Applicant also submits that new claim 13 is not anticipated by *Gloudeman*. New claim 13 includes limitations similar to the limitations of amended claim 1 including providing a common interface in a software system for accessing a control point of a hardware system and providing a locking mechanism for a physical address associated with the control point. Therefore, the remarks stated above with respect to amended claim 1 also apply to new claim 13.

Given that new claims 14-18 depend from new claim 13, it is submitted that new claims 14-18 are not anticipated by *Gloudeman*.

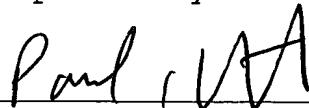
It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the applicable objections and rejections have been overcome.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1078 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7-21-04

By:



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